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NO. X.

FORTIFICATIONS AT MARIETTA.

IN the frontispiece our readers are presented with a plat or ground view of the ancient fortification upon the site now occupied by the city of Marietta, Ohio. This survey or sketch is a copy of, perhaps, the first that was ever made of those works of antiquity, which are found throughout the West, to which even conjecture cannot point out the time when, by whom, or for what purpose, these time-worn structures were reared. They are overgrown by the largest timber, and the tradition of the Indians throw little light on the subject.

The sketch now presented has been compared with later ones, and found to be correct. It is valuable on account of its early date. We have added an outline of some of the streets of Marietta. It was presented for the American Pioneer by a venerable correspondent of Massachusetts, with the following explanation.

Northampton, Massachusetts, May, 1842.

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.

DEAR SIR.—I have a copy of a drawing of the Indian antiquities taken five years previous to that of fort Harinar, by judge Gilman, (1785.) Should the sketch be acceptable, it can be introduced into any of the forthcoming numbers of the American Pioneer. The plat, of which this is a copy, was presented to the Rev. Ezra Stiles, D. D., president of Yale college, and at his request copied by me, then a member of the college, to be preserved in the archives of Yale college, as a memento of olden time, and the early history of the state of Ohio.

Trees of immense size grow on every part of these works, and tradition itself fails to point out the time when these works were constructed. Military gentlemen, who have seen these uncommon fortifications, say that no modern engineers could have chosen situations more proper for defense than these, where artillery is excepted.

References.—No. 1, Town. No. 2, The fort. No. 3, The great mound and ditch. No. 4, The advance work. No. 5, Indian graves. No. 6, Covered way from the town to the then locality of the river, which is supposed at that time to have ran along the edge of the second bottom. These walls are now twenty feet high, and

the graded road between them was one hundred feet wide, and beautifully rounded like a modern turnpike. No. 7, A second covered way with walls of less elevation. No. 8, Caves. No. 9 and 10, elevated squares. These works were interspersed with many small mounds as represented in the drawings. Scale of drawings sixty-six feet to the inch.

The town and fort is on a high and second bottom, a strip of low bottom occupying the front between the works and the Muskingum, which runs nearly parallel with the south-east wall of the town, and very nearly parallel with the edge of the second bottom, and say one hundred and fifty yards in advance of it. A branch of Tiber creek occupies the rear, and partially separates the works from the adjacent highlands.

The draft was copied by me for president Stiles, more than half a century ago, and has been seen by thousands who have evinced great curiosity. At this distance of time I cannot recollect who presented the original to president Stiles, but believe it was either general Pitnam or Mr. Lyman.

Respectfully yours,

Daniel Stiles

ANCIENT MOUND AT MARIETTA.

[See Frontispiece.]

THIS beautiful mound is located near the southern border of the elevated plain, on which are reared those venerable relics of a by gone race, and which early attracted the notice of the first explorers of the valley of the Ohio. They have often been described by various writers, and especially in the *Archæologia Americana*, which is devoted to the history of American antiquities. The object of the present article is not to describe the whole of these works, but only "the mound," which beautiful structure is considered the pride and ornament of Marietta. The venerable and worthy men, who were the directors of the Ohio company, and superintended the platting of the city of Marietta, viewing with admiration this beautiful specimen of the arts amongst the ancient proprietors of this region, reserved a square of six acres around the mound, and appropriated it to the use of a burying ground, thus giving a hallowed aspect to the spot, and preserving it from the violation of private individuals. It yet remains in all its pristine beauty, a monument of the industry and arts of the ancient inhabitants of the valley, and a lasting memento of the classic

taste of the directors of the Ohio company. Every provision was also made that could be, for the protection of the two elevated squares, or truncated pyramids, about half a mile north-west of the mound, by appropriating three acres around each of them as public squares, and placing them under the authority of the future mayor and corporation of the city. They also remain uninjured; while some of the parapets of the ancient fort and city have been dug away in grading the streets, and in some instances by individuals, when they fell within their inclosures; but to the credit of the inhabitants, it may be said, that the old works have been generally preserved with more care, than in any other town in Ohio. "The mound," a drawing of which accompanies this article, was, when first measured, fifty years since, about thirty feet in height; it is now only about twenty-eight feet. It measures one hundred and thirty yards around the base, and should be one hundred and thirty feet in diameter. It terminates not in a regular apex, but is flat on the top, measuring twenty feet across it. The shape is very regular, being that of a cone, whose sides rise at an angle of forty-five degrees. It stands in the centre of a level area, which is sixty-six yards in diameter. This is surrounded by a ditch one hundred and ninety-seven yards in circumference; it is now about four feet deep, and ten feet wide at top, sloping evenly and regularly from the top of the parapet, and inner edge of the ditch to the bottom. Outside the ditch is a wall of earth, being apparently that thrown out of the ditch, and elevated about four feet above the adjacent surface of the earth. The parapet is two hundred and thirty-four yards in circumference. On the north side is an avenue, or opening of fifteen feet in width, through the parapet, across which no ditch is dug. A few rods north, in a line with the gateway or opening, are three low mounds; the nearest is oblong or elliptical, sixty feet in length, and about twenty in width, with an elevation of six or eight feet in the centre, tapering gradually to the sides. These mounds communicate with the fort, as seen in the old plan. The parapet, ditch, circular area, and mound itself, are now covered with a vivid and splendid coat of green sward of native grasses, which protects them from the wash of the rain. There are several beautiful oaks growing on the sides of the mound. When first noticed by the settlers, it was covered with large forest trees, some of them four feet in diameter. A few years since, sheep were allowed to pasture in the cemetery grounds. In their repeated and frequent ascents of the ground, they had worn paths in its sides, down which the wintry rains taking their course, cut deep channels, threatening in a few years to ruin the beauty of the venerable structure, if not to destroy

it entirely. Some of the more intelligent inhabitants of Marietta, observing its precarious state, set on foot a subscription for its repair, and for building a new fence, and ornamenting the grounds with shade trees. Four hundred dollars were raised by subscription, and four hundred were given by the corporation, and a very intelligent man appointed to superintend the work. Three hundred dollars went to the mound, and five hundred to the fencing, planting trees, and opening walks, &c. Inclined planes of boards were erected, on which to elevate the earth in wheel-barrows. At this day it would require a sum of not less than two thousand dollars to erect a similar mound of earth. At the same time a flight of forty-six stone steps, was laid on the north side, making an easy ascent to the top. A circular seat of plank is built on the summit, protected in the outer edge by locust posts, with iron chains from post to post. The view from this elevation is one of the finest in the country, commanding a prospect of eight or nine miles up and down the Ohio river, with a broad range over the hilly region which skirts the Muskingum. No examination has been made by digging, to discover the contents of this mound, with the exception of a slight excavation into the top, many years ago, when the bones of two or three human skeletons were found. The public mind is strongly opposed to any violation, or disfiguring the original form of this beautiful structure, as well as of the old works generally. Several curious ornaments of stone and copper have been brought up at various times in digging graves in the adjacent grounds.

From the precaution taken to surround this mound with a ditch and parapet which was probably crowned also with palisades, it has been suggested that it was a place of sacrifice, and the defenses for the purpose of keeping off the common people, while the priests were engaged in their sacred offices. There is yet a wide field for some Champollion to exercise his ingenuity in developing the period and uses of these erections in the West, by analogies and comparisons with those of South America and Mexico.

A. P. Winchell

LIBERTY.—Liberty must be limited in order to be possessed. The degree of restraint it is impossible in any case to settle precisely. But it ought to be the constant aim of every wise public council, to find out, by cautious experiments, and rational, cool endeavors, with how little, not how much, of this restraint the community can subsist. For liberty is a good to be improved, and not an evil to be lessened.—*Burke.*

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF ISAAC WILLIAMS.

CHAPTER II.

Capture of John Wetzel—His release—Williams settles opposite Fort Harmer—New settlements—Great famine among the settlers—The benevolence of our hero—Famine ends—Beaver trapping—Peculiarities in Mr. Williams' character—His death.

SOME time in the spring of the succeeding year he had the following adventure with the Indians.

John Wetzel, a younger brother of Lewis, the celebrated Indian hunter, then about sixteen years old, with a neighboring boy of about the same age, was in search of horses that had strayed away in the woods, on Wheeling creek, where the parents of John resided. One of the stray animals was a mare with a young foal, belonging to John's sister, and she had offered the colt to John, as a reward for finding the mare. While on this service, they were captured by a party of four Indians, who having come across the horses, had seized upon them, and placed them in a thicket, expecting that their bells would attract the notice of their owners, and they should then easily capture them or take their scalps. The horse was ever a favorite object of plunder with the savages; as not only facilitating his own escape from pursuit, but also assisting him in carrying off the spoil. The boys hearing the well known tinkle of the bells, approached the spot where the Indians lay concealed, congratulating themselves on their good luck in so readily finding the strays, and were immediately seized by the savages. John in attempting to escape was shot through the arm. On their march to the Ohio, his companion made so much lamentation and moaning on the account of his captivity, that the Indians dispatched him with the tomahawk, while John, who had once before been taken prisoner and escaped, made light of it, and went along cheerfully with his wounded arm.

The party struck the Ohio river early the following morning, at a point near the mouth of Grave creek, and just below the clearing of Mr. Tomlinson. Here they found some hogs, and killing one of them with the rifle, put it into a canoe they had stolen. Three of the Indians took possession of the canoe with their prisoner, while the other Indian was busied in swimming the horses across the river. It so happened that Isaac Williams, Hamilton Carr, and Jacob, a Dutchman, had come down that morning from Wheeling, to look after the cattle and hogs left at the deserted settlement at the mouth of the creek. While at the outlet of Little Grave creek, about a mile above, they heard the report of a rifle in the direction of the plantation. "Dod rot'em," exclaimed Mr. Williams, "a Kentuck boat has landed at the creek, and they are shooting

my hogs." Immediately quickening their pace to a smart trot, they in a few minutes were within a short distance of the creek, when they heard the loud snort of a horse. Carr being in the prime of life, and younger than Mr. Williams, was several rods ahead, and reached the bank first. As he looked down into the creek, he saw three Indians standing in a canoe; one was in the stern, one in the bow, and one in the middle of the boat. At the feet of the latter lay four rifles, and a dead hog; while a fourth Indian was swimming a horse across the Ohio, a few rods from the shore. The one in the stern had his paddle in the edge of the water in the act of turning and shoving the canoe from the mouth of the creek into the river. Before they were aware of his presence, Carr drew up and shot the Indian in the stern, who instantly fell into the water. The crack of his rifle had scarcely ceased, when Mr. Williams came on to the bank and shot the Indian in the bow of the canoe, who also fell overboard as Jacob came up. Carr dropped his own rifle, and seizing that of the Dutchman, shot the remaining Indian in the waist of the boat. He fell over into the water, but still held on to the side of the canoe with one hand. So amazed was the last Indian at the fall of his companions, that he never offered to lift one of the rifles which lay at his feet in self-defense, but acted like one bereft of his senses. By this time the canoe, impelled by the impetus given to it by the first Indian, had reached the current of the Ohio, and was some rods below the mouth of the creek. Carr now reloaded his own gun, and seeing another man lying in the bottom of the canoe, raised it to his face in the act of firing, when he seeing the movement called out, "don't shoot, I am a white-man." Carr told him to knock loose the Indian's hand from the side of the canoe, and paddle to the shore. In reply he said his arm was broken and he could not. The current however set it near some rocks not far from land, on to which he jumped and waded out. Carr now aimed his rifle at the Indian on horseback, who by this time had reached the middle of the Ohio. The shot struck near him, splashing the water on to his naked skin. The Indian seeing the fate of his companions, with the bravery of an ancient Spartan, immediately slipped from the back of the horse, and swam for the abandoned canoe, in which were the rifles of the whole four warriors. This was in fact an act of necessity, as well as of noble daring, as he well knew he could not reach his country without the means of killing game by the way. He also was aware that in this act there was little or no hazard, as his enemies could not cross the creek without a canoe; and to ford it, they must run up it nearly a mile, and before that could be done he would be out of their reach. He soon gained possession of the canoe, un-

molested, crossed with the arms to his own side of the Ohio, mounted the captive horse which had swam to the Indian shore, and with a yell of defiance escaped into the woods. The canoe was turned adrift to spite his enemies, and was taken up near Maysville with the dead hog still in it, which had caused the discovery by their shooting, and being the source of all their misfortunes.

It has been stated that Rebecca Martin, before her marriage to Mr. Williams, acted as house-keeper for her brothers for several years. In consideration of which service, her brothers, Joseph and Samuel, made an entry of four hundred acres of land on the Virginia shore of the Ohio river, directly opposite to the mouth of the Muskingum, for their sister; girdling the trees, building a cabin, and planting and fencing four acres of corn, on the high second bottom, in the spring of the year 1773. They spent the summer on the spot, occupying their time with hunting, during the growth of the crop. In this time they had exhausted their small stock of salt and bread stuff, and lived for two or three months altogether on boiled turkies, which were eaten without salt. So accustomed had Samuel become to eating his meat without this condiment, that it was sometime before he could again relish the taste of it. The following winter the two brothers hunted on the Big Kenawha. Some time in March, 1774, they reached the mouth of the river on their return. They were detained here a few days by a remarkably high freshet in the Ohio river, which from certain fixed marks on Wheeling creek, is supposed to have been fully equal to that of February, 1832. That year was long known as that of Dunmore's war, and noted for Indian depredations. The renewed and oft repeated inroads of the Indians, led Mr. Williams to turn his thoughts towards a more quiet retreat than that at Grave creek. Fort Harmer, at the mouth of the Muskingum, having been erected in 1786, and garrisoned by United States troops; he came to the conclusion that he would now occupy the land belonging to his wife, and located by her brothers as before noted. This tract contained four hundred acres, and embraced a large share of rich alluvions. The piece opened by the Tomlinsons in 1773, had grown up with young saplings, but could be easily reclaimed. Having previously visited the spot and put up log cabins, he finally removed his family and effects thither, the twenty-sixth of March, A. D. 1787, being the year before the Ohio company took possession of their purchase at the mouth of the Muskingum.

In the January following the removal to his forest domain, his wife gave birth to a daughter, and was the only issue by this marriage. He was now fifty-two years old, so that she might be called the child of his

old age. This daughter was named Drusilla, and married Mr. John Henderson. She died when about twenty years old, leaving no issue. Soon after the Ohio company emigrants had established themselves at Marietta, a pleasing and friendly intercourse was kept up between Mr. Williams and them; and as he had now turned his attention more especially to clearing and cultivating his farm than to hunting, he was glad to see the new openings springing up around him, and the rude forest changing into the home of civilized man. Settlements had been commenced at Belprie and Waterford, the year after that at Marietta. As yet little had been done in cultivating the soil; their time was chiefly occupied in building cabins and clearing the land.

From the destructive effects of an untimely frost in September of the year 1789, the crops of corn were greatly injured, and where late planted entirely ruined. In the spring and summer of 1790, the inhabitants began to suffer from a want of food, especially wholesome bread-stuffs. The Indians were also becoming troublesome, and rendered it hazardous boating provisions from the older settlements on the Monongahela, or hunting for venison in the adjacent forests. Many families, especially at Belprie, had no other meal than that made from musty or mouldy corn; and were sometimes destitute even of this for several days in succession. This mouldy corn commanded nine shillings, or a dollar and a half a bushel; and when ground in their hand-mills, and made into bread, few stomachs were able to digest it, or even to retain it for a few minutes. The writer of this article has often heard his early friend, C. Devoll, Esqr., who was then a small boy, narrate with much feeling his gastronomic trials with this mouldy meal made into a dish called "sap porridge," and which when made of sweet corn meal, and the fresh sacarine juice of the maple, afforded both a nourishing and a savory dish. The family, then living at Belprie, had been without food for two days, when his father returned from Marietta, just at evening, with a scanty supply of mouldy corn. The hand-mill was immediately put in operation, and the meal cooked into sap porridge, as it was then the season of sugar making. The famished children swallowed eagerly the unsavory mess, which was almost as instantly rejected; reminding us of the deadly pottage of the children of the prophet, but lacking the healing power of an Elijah to render it salutary and nutritious. Disappointed of expected relief, the poor children went supperless to bed, to dream of savory food and plentiful meals, unrealized in their waking hours.

It was during this period of want, that Mr. Williams displayed his benevolent feelings for the suffering colonists. From the circumstance of his being in the country earlier, he had more ground cleared, and had

raised a large crop of several hundred bushels of corn. This he now distributed amongst the inhabitants, at the low rate of three shillings, or fifty cents a bushel, when at the same time he had been offered, and urged to take a dollar per bushel, by speculators, for his whole crop; for man has ever been disposed to fatten on the distresses of his fellows. "Dod rot'em," said the old hunter, "I would not let them have a bushel." He not only parted with his corn at this cheap rate, but he also prudently proportioned the number of bushels, according to the number of individuals in a family. An empty purse was no bar to the needy applicant; but his wants were equally supplied with those who had money, and a credit given untill more favorable times should enable him to discharge the debt. Captain Jonathan Devoll, the father of Charles Devoll, Esqr., now living at the mouth of the Big Hockhocking, hearing of Mr. Williams' corn, and the cheap rate at which he sold it, made a trip to Marietta, directly after the adventure with the sap-porridge, to procure some of it. The journey was made by land, and in the night, traveling on the ridges adjacent to the river, as the stream itself was so swollen by the spring flood as to prevent his traveling by water in a canoe. He chose to come in the night on account of the danger from Indians. The intrepidity of the man may be estimated from his making this journey alone, a distance of twelve or fourteen miles. He reached fort Harmer at day light. Major Doughty, the commander, after giving him a warm breakfast, ordered two soldiers to set him across the Ohio in the garrison boat. Mr. Williams treated him with much kindness, and after letting him have several bushels of corn at the moderate rate of three shillings a bushel, the usual price at that day in plentiful years, also furnished him with his only canoe in which to transport it to his home. Captain Devoll felt unwilling to take it, but he urged it upon him, saying he could soon make another.

During this season of want, some of our present inhabitants, who were then children, to this day relate, with what anxiety from week to week they watched the tardy growth of the corn, beans, and squashes, and with what delight they partook of the first meal prepared from vegetables of their own raising. Disinterested benevolence, such as every one must admire in Mr. Williams, is confined to no country, and to no age; but flourishes with the greatest vigor in the hut of the forester, and amidst the inhabitants of an exposed frontier. Common danger creates a community of feeling and of interest; and there is no doubt that our forefathers, could they again speak, would say that the years passed by them in and surrounded by dangers and privations, were

interesting, if not the most happy of their lives. Mr. Williams retained a relish for hunting to his latest years, and whenever a little unwell, forsaking his comfortable home, would take his rifle and favorite old dog "Cap," accompanied by one of his black servants, retire to the woods, and encamping by some clear stream, remain there drinking the pure water, and eating such food as his rifle procured. Medicine he never took, except such simple remedies as the forest afforded. The untrodden wilderness was to him full of charms, and before the close of the revolutionary war he had hunted over all parts of the valley of the Ohio, sometimes with a companion, but oftener alone. From his sedate manners, and quiet habits, the trapping of the beaver was his most favorite pursuit. This was a great art amongst the early pioneers and hunters of the west, and he who was the most successful and adroit in this mystery, was accounted a fortunate man; it was many times quite lucrative, the proceeds of a few months hunt often realizing three or four hundred dollars to the trapper. Mr. Williams stood high in this branch of the hunter's occupations; and few men could entrap more beavers than himself. To be a successful trapper required great caution as well as a perfect knowledge of the habits of the animal. The residence of the beaver was often discovered by seeing bits of green wood, and gnawed branches of the bass-wood, slippery elm, and sycamore, their favorite food, floating on the water, or lodged on the shores of the stream below, as well as by their tracks or foot marks. They were also sometimes discovered by their dams, thrown across creeks and small sluggish streams, forming a pond in which were erected their habitations. The hunter, as he proceeded to set his traps, generally approached by water in his canoe. He selected a steep, abrupt spot in the bank of the creek, in which a hole was excavated with his paddle, as he sat in the canoe, sufficiently large to hold the trap, and so deep as to be about three inches below the surface of the water, when the jaws of the trap were expanded. About two feet above the trap, a stick, three or four inches in length, was stuck in the bank. In the upper end of this, the trapper excavated a small hole with his knife, into which he dropped a small quantity of the essence, or perfume, used to attract the beaver to the spot. This stick was attached by a string of horse hair to the trap, and with it was pulled into the water by the beaver. The reason for this was, that it might not remain after the trap was sprung, and attract other beavers to the spot, and thus prevent their going to where there was another trap ready for them. The scent, or essence, was made by mingling the fresh castor of the beaver, with an extract of the bark of the roots of the spice-bush, and kept in a bottle for

son,
at the most

use. The making of this essence was held a profound secret, and often sold for a considerable sum to the younger trappers, by the older proficient in the mystery of beaver hunting. Where they had no proper bait, they sometimes made use of the fresh roots of sassafras, or spice bush; of both these the beaver was very fond. It is said by old trappers that they will smell the well prepared essence the distance of a mile. Their sense of smell is very acute, or they would not so readily detect the vicinity of man by the smell of his trail. The aroma of the essence having attracted the animal into the vicinity of the trap, in his attempt to reach it, he has to climb up on to the bank where it is sticking. This effort leads him directly over the trap, and he is usually taken by one of the fore legs. The trap was connected by a chain of iron, six feet in length, to a stout line made of the bark of the leatherwood, twisted into a neat cord, of fifteen or twenty feet. These were usually fabricated at home or at their camps; cords of hemp or flax were scarce in the days of beaver hunting. The end of the line was secured to a stake drove into the bed of the creek under water. In his struggles to escape, the beaver was usually drowned before the arrival of the trapper. Sometimes, however, he freed himself by gnawing off his own leg, though this was rarely the case. If there was a prospect of rain, or it was raining at the time of setting the trap, a leaf, generally of sycamore, was placed over the essence stick to protect it from the rain. The beaver being a very sagacious and cautious animal, it required great care in the trapper, in his approach to its haunts to set his traps, that no scent of his feet or hands was left on the earth, or bushes that he touched. For this reason he generally approached in a canoe. If he had no canoe, it was necessary to enter the stream thirty or forty yards below, and walk in the water to the place, taking care to return in the same manner, or the beaver would take alarm and not come near the bait, as his fear of the vicinity of man was greater than his sense of appetite for the essence. It also required caution in kindling a fire near their haunts, as the smell of smoke alarmed them. The firing of a gun, also often marred the sport of the trapper. Thus it will be seen that to make a successful beaver hunter, required more qualities or natural gifts, than fall to the share of most men. Mr. Williams was eminently qualified for the calling of a hunter, both by disposition and by practice. He was a close observer of nature; taciturn in his manners, and slow and cautious in his movements: never in a hurry, or flurried by an unexpected occurrence. In many respects he was an exact portrait of Cooper's "beau ideal" of a master hunter, so finely portrayed in "the Pioneer," and other back woods legends.

During the Indian war, from 1791 to 1795, he remained unmolested in his cabin, protected in some measure from attack, by the Ohio river and the proximity of fort Harmer, as well as by the stockade around his own dwellings, which sheltered several families besides his own. Mr. Williams seldom spoke of his own exploits, and when related, they generally came from the lips of his companions. There was only one situation in which he could be induced to relax his natural reserve, and freely narrate the romantic and hazardous adventures which had befallen him in his hunting and war excursions in all parts of the western wilderness, and that was when encamped by the evening fire, in some remote spot, after the toils of the day were closed, and the supper of venison and bear meat finished. Here while reclining on a bed of fresh leaves, beneath the lofty branches of the forest, with no listener but the stars and his companion, the spirit of narration would come upon him, and for hours he would rehearse the details of his youthful and hazardous adventures by forest, flood, and field. In such situations, surrounded by the works of God, his body and his mind felt a freedom that the hut and the clearing could not give. In this manner, the late Alexander Henderson informed the writer, he had passed some of the most interesting hours of his life, while hunting with Mr. Williams on the heads of the Little Kenawha. In person, he was of the middle size, with an upright frame and robust muscular limbs; his features firm and strongly marked, with a taciturn and quiet manner. In his youth he does not appear to have been attached to the rude sports, and rough plays, so congenial to most of the borderers of those early days, but preferred social converse, and an interchange of good offices with his fellows. Although he lived at a time and in a situation where he was deprived of all opportunity for religious instruction, yet he appears to have had an intuitive dread of all vicious words or actions. The writer distinctly recollects hearing him reprove a keel boatman, a class of men whose language was intermingled with oaths, in the most severe manner for his profanity, as he was passing the boat where the man was at work.

Like Isaac and Rebecca of old, this modern Isaac and Rebecca were given to good deeds; and many a poor, sick, and abandoned boatman has been nursed and restored to health beneath their humble roof. Many years before his death he liberated all his slaves; and by his will left valuable tokens of his love and good feeling for the oppressed and despised African. Full of days and of good deeds, and strong in the faith of a blessed immortality, Mr. Williams resigned his spirit to Him who gave it, the 25th of September, A. D. 1820, aged eighty-four years; and was buried in a beautiful grove on his

own plantation, surrounded by the trees he so dearly loved when living.

A. P. Hildreth

DAILY JOURNAL OF WAYNE'S CAMPAIGN,

From July 28th to November 2d, 1794, including an account of the memorable battle of 20th August.

[Concluded.]

Fort Defiance, 1st September, 1794.—This morning the fatigue party ordered yesterday began to fortify and strengthen the fort and make it of sufficient strength to be proof against heavy metal: the work now on hand is a glacis with fascines, and a ditch twelve feet wide and eight feet deep; the block-houses are to be made bomb-proof.

Fort Defiance, 2d September, 1794.—Every effective man of the light troops in the redoubts round the camp were ordered this morning to make three fascines.

The foraging party that went out this day brought in as much corn, dry enough to grate, as will suffice the troops three days. The soldiery gets sick very fast with the fever and ague, and have it severely.

Fort Defiance, 3d September, 1794.—Nothing but hard fatigues going forward in all quarters. The garrison begins to put on the appearance of strength, and will in a few days be able to stand the shock of heavy cannon: the troops are very sickly, and I believe the longer we continue in this place the worse it will be.

Fort Defiance, 4th September, 1794.—The number of our sick increases daily, provision is nearly exhausted; the whisky has been out for some time, which makes the hours pass heavily to the tune of Roslin Castle, when in our present situation they ought to go to the quick step of the merry man down to his grave. Hard duty and scanty allowance will cause an army to be low spirited, particularly the want of a little of the *wet*.

If it was not for the forage we get from the enemy's fields, the rations would not be sufficient to keep soul and body together.

Fort Defiance, 5th September, 1794.—No news of the escort; this day the troops drew no flour, and I fear we will shortly draw no beef; however, as long as the issuing of beef continues the troops will not suffer, as there is still corn in abundance on the river.

Fort Defiance, 6th September, 1794.—The work on the garrison

goes on with life and will be completed in a few days. The weather very wet and cold, this morning there is a small frost.

Fort Defiance, 7th September, 1794.—Nothing of consequence took place this day. Our sick are getting better.

Fort Defiance, 8th September, 1794.—This day brings us information of the escort; by express we learn it will be with us to-morrow. It will be fortunate for us should provisions arrive, as we have not drawn any flour since the 7th instant, nevertheless we have the greatest abundance of vegetables.

Fort Defiance, 9th September, 1794.—The escort has not yet arrived, but will be in to-morrow. General Scott with the residue is ordered to march to-morrow morning at reveillie. The commander-in-chief engaged with the volunteers to bring on the flour from Greenville on their own horses, for which they are to receive three dollars per hundred, delivered at the Miami villages.

Fort Defiance, 10th September, 1794.—The escort arrived this day about 3 o'clock, and brought with them 200 kegs of flour and nearly 200 head of cattle. Captain Preston and ensigns Strother, Bowyer and Lewis, joined us this day with the escort. We received no liquor by this command, and I fancy we shall not receive any until we get into winter quarters, which will make the fatigues of the campaign appear double, as I am persuaded the troops would much rather live on half rations of beef and bread, provided they could obtain their full rations of whisky. The vegetables are as yet in the greatest abundance. The soldiers of captain Wm. Lewis' company are in perfect health, the wounded excepted.

Fort Defiance, 11th September, 1794.—This day general Barber's brigade of mounted volunteers marched for Fort Recovery for provisions, to meet us at the Miami villages by the 20th.

Fort Defiance, 12th September, 1794.—This day the pioneers were ordered to cut the road up the Miami under the direction of the sub-legionary quarter-master; they are to commence at 7 o'clock to-morrow morning.

Fort Defiance, 13th September, 1794.—This day a general order was issued, setting forth that the legion would march to-morrow morning precisely at 7 o'clock, every department to prepare themselves accordingly.

The squaw that Wells captured on the 11th August, was this day liberated and sent home. Three soldiers of the 1st and three of the 3d sub-legions deserted last night; sixteen volunteers pursued them, they are to receive twenty dollars if they bring them in dead or alive.

Camp 11½ Mile Tree, 14th September, 1794.—The legion began

their march for the Miami villages at 7 o'clock this morning and encamped on this ground at 3 o'clock, after marching in the rain eight hours.

Camp 23d Mile Tree, 15th September, 1794.—The legion marched at 6 and encamped at 4 o'clock. Captain Preston, who commanded the light troops in the rear, got lost and lay out from the army all night with a large part of the baggage.

Camp 33d Mile Tree, 16th September, 1794.—We encamped on this ground at 4 o'clock, after passing over very rough roads, and woods thick with brush, the timber very lofty and the land generally rich and well watered.

Camp Miami Villages, 17th September, 1794.—The army halted on this ground at 5 o'clock, P. M., being 47 miles from Fort Defiance and 14 from our last encampment; there are nearly 500 acres of cleared land lying in one body on the rivers St. Joseph, St. Mary's and the Miami; there are fine points of land contiguous to those rivers adjoining the cleared land. The rivers are navigable for small craft in the summer, and in the winter there is water sufficient for large boats, the land adjacent fertile and well timbered, and from every appearance it has been one of the largest settlements made by the Indians in this country.

Camp Miami Villages, 18th September, 1794.—This day the commander-in-chief reconnoitered the ground and determined on the spot to build a garrison on. The troops fortified their camps, as they halted too late yesterday to cover themselves. Four deserters from the British came to us this day, they bring information that the Indians are encamped 8 miles below the British fort to the number of 1600.

Camp Miami Villages, 19th September, 1794.—This day we hear that general Barber's brigade of mounted volunteers are within 12 miles of this place and will be in early to-morrow with large supplies of flour; we have had heavy rains, the wind N. W., and the clouds have the appearance of emptying large quantities on this western world.

Camp Miami Villages, 20th September, 1794.—Last night it rained violently and the wind blew from the N. W. harder than I knew heretofore. General Barber with his command arrived in camp about 9 o'clock this morning with 553 kegs of flour, each containing 100lbs.

Camp Miami Villages, 21st September, 1794.—The commander-in-chief reviewed the legion this day at 1 o'clock. All the quartermaster's horses set off this morning escorted by the mounted volunteers for Greenville, and are to return the soonest possible; we have

not one quart of salt on this ground, which occasions bad and disagreeable living, until the arrival of the next escort.

Camp Miami Villages, 22d September, 1794.—Nothing of consequence took place this day, except that the troops drew no salt with their fresh provisions.

Camp Miami Villages, 23d September, 1794.—Four deserters from the British garrison arrived at our camp: they mention that the Indians are still embodied on the Miami, 9 miles below the British fort; that they are somewhat divided in opinion, some are for peace and others for war.

Camp Miami Villages, 24th September, 1794.—This day the work commenced on the garrison, which I am apprehensive will take some time to complete it. A keg of whisky containing ten gallons, was purchased this day for eighty dollars, a sheep for ten dollars; three dollars was offered for one pint of salt, but it could not be obtained for less than six.

Camp Miami Villages, 25th September, 1794.—Lieutenant Blue of the dragoons was this day arrested by ensign Johnson of the 4th S. L., but a number of their friends interfering the dispute was settled upon lieutenant Blue's asking ensign Johnson's pardon.

Camp Miami Villages, 26th September, 1794.—M'Cleland, one of our spies, with a small party came in this evening from Fort Defiance, who brings information that the enemy are troublesome about the garrison, and that they have killed some of our men under the walls of the fort. Sixteen Indians were seen to day near this place, a small party went in pursuit of them. I have not heard what discoveries they have made.

Camp Miami Villages, 27th September, 1794.—No intelligence of the enemy; the rain fell considerably last night, this morning the wind is S. W.

Camp Miami Villages, 28th September, 1794.—the weather proves colder.

Camp Miami Villages, 30th September, 1794.—Salt and whisky were drawn by the troops this day and a number of the soldiery became much intoxicated, they having stolen a quantity of liquor from the quarter-master.

Camp Miami Villages, 1st October, 1794.—The volunteers appear to be uneasy, and have refused to do duty; they are ordered by the commander-in-chief to march to-morrow for Greenville to assist the pack-horses, which I am told they are determined not to do.

Camp Miami Villages, 2d October, 1794.—This morning the volunteers refused to go on command, and demanded of general Scott

to conduct them home; he ordered them to start with general Barber, or if they made the smallest delay they should lose all their pay and be reported to the war office as revolvers; this had the desired effect, and they went off not in good humor.

Camp Miami Villages, 3d October, 1794.—Every officer, non-commissioned officer and soldier belonging to the square, are on fatigue this day, hauling trees on the hind wheels of wagons: the first day we got an extra gill per man, which appears to be all the compensation at this time in the power of the commander-in-chief to make the troops.

Camp Miami Villages, 4th October, 1794.—This morning we had the hardest frost I ever saw in the middle of December, it was like a small snow; there was ice in our camp-kettles $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch thick: the fatigues go on with velocity, considering the rations the troops are obliged to live on.

Camp Miami Villages, 5th October, 1794.—The weather extremely cold, and hard frosts, the wind N. W.; every thing quiet and nothing but harmony and peace throughout the camp, which is something uncommon.

Camp Miami Villages, 6th October, 1794.—Plenty and quietness the same as yesterday; the volunteers engaged to work on the garrison, for which they are to receive three gills of whisky per man per day, their employment is digging the ditch and filling up the parapet.

Camp Miami Villages, 7th October, 1794.—The volunteers are soon tired of work and have refused to labor any longer; they have stolen and killed 17 beeves in the course of these two days past.

Camp Miami Villages, 8th October, 1794.—The troops drew but half rations of flour this day. The cavalry and other horses die very fast, not less than four or five per day.

Camp Miami Villages, 9th October, 1794.—The volunteers have agreed to build a block-house in front of the garrison.

Camp Miami Villages, 11th October, 1794.—A Canadian [Rozelle] with a flag arrived this evening; his business was to deliver up three prisoners in exchange for his brother, who was taken on the 20th August; he brings information that the Indians are in council with Girty and M'Kee near the fort of Detroit, that all the tribes are for peace except the Shawneese, who are determined to prosecute the war.

Camp Miami Villages, 12th October, 1794.—The mounted volunteers of Kentucky marched for Greenville, to be mustered and dismissed the service of the United States army, they being of no further service therein.

Camp Miami Villages, 13th October, 1794.—Captain Gibson marched this day and took with him a number of horses for Fort Recovery to receive supplies of provisions.

Camp Miami Villages, 14th October, 1794.—Nothing particular this day.

Camp Miami Villages, 15th October, 1794.—The Canadian that came in on the 11th, left us this day accompanied by his brother; they have promised to furnish the garrison at Defiance with stores at a moderate price, which, if performed, will be a great advantage to the officers and soldiers of that post.

Camp Miami Villages, 16th October, 1794.—Nothing new, weather wet, and cold, wind from N. W. The troops healthy in general.

Camp Miami Villages, 17th October, 1794.—This day captain Gibson arrived with a large quantity of flour, beef, and sheep.

Camp Miami Villages, 18th October, 1794.—Captain Springer and Brock, with all the pack-horses, marched with the cavalry this morning for Greenville, and the foot for Recovery, the latter to return with the smallest delay with a supply of provisions for this post and Defiance.

Camp Miami Villages, 19th October, 1794.—This day the troops were not ordered for labor, being the first day for four weeks, and accordingly attended divine service.

Camp Miami Villages, 20th October, 1794.—An express arrived this day with despatches to the commander-in-chief; the contents are kept secret.

A court-martial to sit this day for the trial of lieutenant Charles Hyde.

Camp Miami Villages, 21st October, 1794.—This day were read the proceedings of a general court-martial, held on lieutenant Charles Hyde, (yesterday) was found not guilty of the charges exhibited against him, and was therefore acquitted.

Camp Miami Villages, 22d October, 1794.—This morning at 7 o'clock the following companies, under the command of lieutenant-colonel-commandant Hamtramck of the 1st sub-legion, took possession of this place, viz: captain Kingsbury's 1st; captain Greateon's 2d; captain Spark's and captain Reed's, 3d; captain Preston's 4th; and captain Porter's, of artillery; and after firing fifteen rounds of cannon, colonel Hamtramck gave it the name of Fort Wayne.

Camp Miami Villages, 23d October, 1794.—The general fatigue of the garrison ended this day, and colonel Hamtramck, with the troops under his command, to furnish it as he may think fit.

All the soldier's huts are completed except covering, and the weather is favorable for that work.

Camp Miami Villages, 24th October, 1794.—This day the troops drew but half rations of beef and flour, the beef very bad.

Camp Miami Villages, 25th October, 1794.—Nothing extraordinary the same as Yesterday.

This evening captain Springer with the escort, arrived with a supply of flour and salt. A Frenchman and a half Indian came to headquarters, but where they are from or their business we cannot learn but that it is of a secret nature.

Camp Miami Villages, 26th October, 1794.—Nothing occurring to-day except an expectation to march the day after to-morrow.

Camp Miami Villages, 27th October, 1794.—Agreeable to general orders of this day, we will march for Greenville to-morrow morning at 8 o'clock.

Camp nine miles from Fort Wayne, 28th October, 1794.—The legion took up the line of march at 9 o'clock and arrived here without any thing particular occurring.

Camp twenty-one miles from Fort Wayne, 29th October, 1794.—The troops proceeded on their march at sun-rise, and arrived on this ground at half past 3 o'clock, our way was through rich and well timbered land, the weather cold and much like for rain.

Camp South West side of St. Mary's river, 30th October, 1794.—The legion proceeded on their march at 7 o'clock, and arrived here at sun-set, continual heavy rain all day.

Camp Girty's Town, 31st October, 1794.—The troops took up their line of march at sun-rise, and arrived here three hours after night, through heavy rain.

Greenville, 2nd November, 1794.—This evening the legion arrived here, where they march from 28th July, 1794.

We were saluted with twentyfour rounds from a six-pounder. Our absence from this ground amounted to three Months and six days. And so ends the expedition of general Wayne's campaign.

Adelphi, July 5th, 1842.

JNO. S. WILLIAMS, Esq.—*Dear Sir*:—The leaves missing from the journal of Wayne's campaign have been lost some years. The interest of the remainder is not materially impaired by the accident. This shows the great utility of a work like the Pioneer devoted to collecting and preserving such manuscript. Yours.

Geo. Will

WAR IN VIRGINIA.

THE following is another reminiscence from our faithful correspondent in Missouri. It is truly interesting. He says, "to tell all would fill a volume;" we say, tell it if it fills twenty volumes. Is it possible that the American people will not support a periodical, which shall save from oblivion an account of the perils, hairbreadth escapes, and the prowess of our fathers and mothers? They will support it. Go on, Mr. Sharp.

CONTENTS.

False report that Glade Hollow fort was taken—The true history of the affair—Mr. Sharp's sisters captured, taken to Canada, and returned—Logan's life and death—Ranger's war upon the tories—Other ranging parties—Mrs. Scott's captivity, &c.

Warren county, Missouri, July 13th, 1842.

MR. JNO. S. WILLIAMS, ESQ.

My memory will not justify me in settling dates precisely; but to the best of my recollection, it was in the year 1778, about the middle of May, that news came flying to our settlement like fire in a prairie, that the Glade Hollow fort, on Clinch, (now Russell county,) was taken by the Indians, and every soul in it either killed or captured. My oldest sister, with her husband and family, I expected was in that fort. That same evening, sun about an hour high, eighteen of us, including our officer, lieutenant Samuel Newel, set off for that fort. We ran about twelve miles that evening, and waded the north fork of Holston just before night, which wet us above the middle; and when night set in we were forced to stop and lie down without fire, wet as we were, for we had no trace we could follow in the night, and in many places the weeds and grass were waist high. We set off the next morning by early dawn, and arrived in view of the fort by eight or nine o'clock. On reconnoitering we found the fort had not been taken as was reported; but on discovering us, every soul in it ran out to meet us, and I learned that my brother-in-law and family had removed to another fort called Elk Garden, ten miles higher up the country.

The true history of the case was this; a man by the name of Whitesides, a large active man, came down one evening from the Elk Garden to the Glade Hollow, to hunt a horse he had running in that range; the next morning he set out to find his horse, and his not returning to the fort created no suspicion, they thinking he had found his horse and returned home; but he had not proceeded more than two miles when his horse was shot down under him, and himself captured by nine Indians. They pinioned his arms back, loaded him with their extra plunder and some meat cut out of the dead horse, and in this manner they were skulking and spying about for three or four days, watching

an opportunity to attack the fort. The fort was in a wretched state of defense; there were but seven men in it, and they were every day engaged in bringing saltpetre dust from a cave at some distance from the fort, to make saltpetre. This the Indians soon discovered, and resolved to take the fort the next time the men went out; on seeing the men about to start, they tied Whitesides' feet, and left one Indian to guard him, while the others sought a more convenient place to effect their purpose, as soon as the men were gone. In the mean time the Indian who had charge of Whitesides, thinking they were too much exposed to view, untied his feet, and made him creep further into the brush; and laying down his gun, sat down before him to tie his feet again. At that moment Whitesides seized the gun, and although his arms were pinioned, gave him such a blow over the head, as broke the gun to pieces, and felled him to the ground, and perhaps extinguished life. He then sprang to his feet, and gave the alarm to the men, who strained back to the fort with all their speed; but Whitesides ran past the fort towards the Elk Garden, carrying all the Indian plunder on his back. The Indians on hearing the alarm, ran back as was supposed, and finding their companion perhaps lifeless, pursued Whitesides, and met a party of men, about forty in number, in plain view of the fort, coming carelessly along to serve as rangers, on whom they fired and killed two, and the rest fled ingloriously, each one his own way, spreading the alarm that the fort was taken.

The next day after our arrival we were joined by a captain James Dysart, with about the same number of men that we had, and for part of the summer we entered upon the laborious service of ranging through the mountains, with no other success than perhaps giving greater security to the forts. This same sister, and another of my sisters, with their husbands and families, removed I think the same fall to Kentucky, and were all taken by the British and Indians in Riddle's station, on Licking, and carried to Canada, and detained there as prisoners, till the end of the war; but they all got safe home with the increase of one in each family.

The celebrated Logan was with this party; my brother-in-law, captain John Dunkin, an intelligent man, had several conversations with him on the trip. He said Logan spoke both English and French; he told captain Dunkin that he knew he had two souls, the one good and the other bad; when the good soul had the ascendant, he was kind and humane; and when the bad soul ruled, he was perfectly savage, and delighted in nothing but blood and carnage. The account that captain Dunkin gave of his death was, that his brother-in-law killed him as they returned home from a council

held at Detroit, on account of some misusage he had given his sister at the council.

If I am correct, I think the next year, 1779, about the time of harvest, news was received that the tories were embodying on the head of the Yadkin, in North Carolina, and on New river and Walker's creek, in Virginia, with the intention of destroying the lead works on New river, from which the West had its chief supply of lead, and then to force their way to the head-quarters of lord Cornwallis, which was then in the Carolinas. Our militia, all well mounted, turned out under colonel William Campbell, a brave intrepid officer, and proceeded to meet this, to us, new kind of enemy; but the tories did not choose to meet us in the field, but dispersed at our approach. We were then dispatched in small detachments, and had active business for several weeks, pursuing, taking, and imprisoning tories. We subsisted ourselves and horses on their grain and stock, and compelled those who were old and unfit for service, to give surety for their good behavior, or go to jail, and pardoned the young effective men, on condition of their serving as faithful soldiers in the armies of the United States, during the war, as an atonement for their crimes. Thus we became the most successful recruiting parties that perhaps had ever been employed. In this expedition, although we did hard and active duty, yet we had no fighting, no lives lost or men wounded.

Various other ranging parties and small expeditions were carried on during the war, particularly one against an Indian town called Chickeymagee; and another in search of certain Indian lodges, said to be in the lower end of Powel's valley; but as I was not engaged in any of them, I have no recollection of particulars, nor even of the officers' names under whom they were undertaken, with the exception of the one down Powel's valley, which was commanded by colonel Joseph Martin, and which I think found one lodge, and killed two Indians. My next elder brother was with this party.

In these times our part of the country was in a constant state of alarm. To recount all the hairbreadth escapes and murders committed by marauding parties of Indians, would fill a volume. A Mrs. Hamblin defended her house against the attack of eleven Indians, with only an old musket that would not fire; but the next year they killed her and nearly all the family, and took one of her little boys prisoner to Canada. Twenty-four Indians broke into the house of a Mr. Scott just after dark, and killed him and all his children, and took Mrs. Scott prisoner. Another house which stood close by, in which was a little girl, eleven or twelve years old, with her little brother

some years younger than her, they did not enter, but shot through the door and killed the boy; the girl sprung out at a window, and hid in a nursery of young peach trees till the Indians were gone; she then re-entered the house, laid out her dead brother, and set by him all night, and till late the next day, when a party of men arrived to bury the dead. Mrs. Scott traveled with her captors for several days, till at length they encamped on the bank of a large river, supposed to be the Ohio; here the Indians separated, for what purpose she could not tell, leaving her in the care of two. After resting here some days, she found means to escape from her keepers, and wandered thirty-three days through wilderness and mountains, before she reached the settlements, without any subsistence but such roots, buds, and berries, as she could find. One of our neighbors, a respectable young man by the name of Fulkerson, was killed when driving up his horses from the range. My oldest brother, Thomas Sharp, was fired at and badly wounded, but being on horseback, made his escape, and recovered of his wound. My brother-in-law, Jacob Fulkerson, and a young man by the name of Callahan, were both killed when hunting their cattle in the range. Such were the difficulties, not half told, the early settlers on Holston's river had to encounter during the revolution, and for several years after. The most important expedition, in its consequences, took place from that part of Virginia, in the year 1780, of which, perhaps, I may give you the particulars in a future communication.

Most respectfully yours, &c.

Jno. S. Williams, Esq.

Benj. Sharp

TOLERATION.—In the year 1791, two Creek chiefs accompanied an American to England, where, as usual, they attracted great attention, and many flocked around them, as well to learn their ideas of certain things as to behold “the savages.” Being asked their opinion of religion, or of what religion they were, one made answer, that they had no priests in their country, or established religion, for they thought, that, upon a subject where there was no possibility of people’s agreeing in opinion, and as it was altogether matter of *mere* opinion, “it was best that every one should paddle his canoe his own way.” Here is a volume of instruction in a short answer of a savage!—[*Drake.*]

POST OFFICE FACILITIES.

Auditor's Office, Post Office Dep't., July 25, 1842.

DEAR SIR,—I have been too much occupied, for several months, with the *present* condition of this branch of the post office department, to look into its general, *early* history. I recommence with the first report made to congress on the 25th of July, 1775; and until I had put this date on paper, I did not notice, that I had resumed to write to you, just sixty-seven years after the first report was presented by the committee, appointed to consider the best means of establishing posts, for conveying letters and intelligence through this continent.

This is comparatively a short period of time; but there is not now in existence one single person, who was a member of the first or second congress. What have time, and intelligence, and energy, under the guidance of an over-ruling Providence, done for this country, and for this people! Sixty-seven years ago to-day, congress resolved, to appoint a postmaster-general, and it recommended that he establish a weekly post to South Carolina. The mail was to be carried on horse-back, as a matter of course, for sulky, wagon and stage were not common, and as for steamboats and railroad-cars, they had not been heard of, nor named: and if our fathers in that day had been told, that in about half a century, the mail would be conveyed in these vehicles, they would not have more marvelled, nor have been less astonished, than we should be now, were it revealed to us, that within the next fifty years, the mails will be conveyed in balloons, from continent to continent.

The first congress assembled at Carpenters' Hall, in the city of Philadelphia, Monday, September 5th, 1774; and continued in session until Wednesday, October 26th, when it dissolved itself. The journal furnishes no evidence, that the subject of sending intelligence by posts was under consideration.

The second congress assembled at the state-house in Philadelphia, on Wednesday, May 10th, 1775, and on the 29th, the following entry was made in the journal.

"As the present critical situation of the colonies renders it highly necessary that ways and means should be devised for the speedy and secure conveyance of intelligence from one end of the continent to the other, *Resolved*, That Mr. Franklin, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Lee, Mr. Willing, Mr. S. Adams, and Mr. P. Livingston, be a committee to consider the best means of establishing posts for conveying letters and intelligence through this continent."

This is the first recorded exercise of power by congress, over the subject, that is found.

The committee reported on Tuesday, July 25th, 1775, and on the next day the same was debated and agreed to, as follows: "That a postmaster-general be appointed for the united colonies, who shall hold his office at Philadelphia, and shall be allowed a salary of one thousand dollars per annum, for himself, and three hundred and forty dollars per annum, for a secretary, and comptroller, with power to appoint such, and so many deputies, as to him may seem proper and necessary.

"That a line of posts be appointed, under the direction of the postmaster-general, from Falmouth in New England, to Savannah in Georgia, with so many cross-posts, as he shall think fit.

"That the allowances to the deputies, in lieu of salary, and all contingent expenses, shall be twenty per centum on the sums they collect and pay into the general post office annually, when the whole is under or not exceeding one thousand dollars, and ten per centum, for all sums above one thousand dollars, a year.

"That the several deputies account quarterly with the general post-office; and the postmaster-general annually with the continental treasurers, when he shall pay into the receipt of the said treasurers the profits of the post office, and if the necessary expense of this establishment should exceed the produce of it, the deficiency shall be made good by the united colonies, and paid to the postmaster-general by the continental treasurers.

"On motion made, *Resolved*, That it be recommended to the postmaster-general to establish a weekly post to South Carolina.

"That it be left to the postmaster-general, to appoint a secretary and comptroller.

"The congress then proceeded to the election of a postmaster-general for one year, and until another is appointed by a future congress, when Benjamin Franklin, Esq. was unanimously chosen."

On the 7th of November, 1776, the following resolution was adopted: "*Resolved*, That Richard Bache be appointed postmaster-general, in the room of Dr. Franklin, who is absent."

Mr. Bache was son-in-law to Dr. Franklin, and the first comptroller appointed in the general post office. He held the office until Monday, January 28th, 1782, when congress proceeded to the election of a postmaster-general, and the ballots being taken, Mr. Ebenezer Hazard was elected, having been previously nominated by Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Hazard had been inspector of dead letters, in which station he intercepted some letters of importance, for which he was complimented by congress, on the day he was promoted.

On Friday, August 30th, 1776, the committee for regulating the post

office further reported, which was taken into consideration, whereupon congress "*Resolved*, That the communication of intelligence with frequency and dispatch, from one part to another of this extensive continent, is essentially requisite to its safety, and therefore, that there be employed, on the public post-roads, a rider for every twenty-five or thirty miles, whose business it shall be, to proceed through his stage three times in every week, setting out immediately on the receipt of the mail, and traveling with the same by night and by day, without stopping, until he shall have delivered it to the next rider, and that the postmaster-general be desired, either by the use of way-bills, or such other means as he shall find most efficacious, to prevent delay in the riders, and to discover whence they happen, that such dilatory riders be discharged."

It was recommended to the states, to excuse deputy postmasters from the public duties which might call them from their offices, and prevent them receiving and delivering letters. Congress afterwards excused them from performing military duty.

To defray in part the expense of keeping three advice boats in service, the select committee were empowered to freight merchandize and other commodities, as will be seen by the following resolution, adopted at the last mentioned date.

"*Resolved*, That three advice boats be established, one to ply between the state of North Carolina and such ports as shall be most convenient to the place at which congress shall be setting; one other between the state of South Carolina and the said port; and one other between the state of Georgia and the same port. That such advice boats be armed, and put under the direction of the secret committee, who are empowered to freight them with such merchandize or other commodities as, without retarding their passage, may, together with the usual postage on letters and other papers transmitted by them, contribute to defray the expenses of the said boats."

Economy in those days was less discussed than practised.

Here is a case in point, to justify the mail-contractors, to transport oysters in their stages from the Atlantic to the western wilds; but the restriction "without retarding their passage," should be scrupulously observed.

Congress, as we have seen by the fundamental law, passed on the 25th day of July, 1775, pledged the profits of the post office, to defray the necessary expense of the establishment, and bound itself, to make good the deficiency to the postmaster-general. This is probably the reason why the postmaster-general incurred no expense, without the express direction of congress having been first given.

The following resolution very satisfactorily shows, that the commandants at distinct and distant posts, did not regularly communicate with congress, if they sent expresses at all.

Richard Bache, comptroller of the post office, in a letter which was referred to a committee, had pointed out the deficiency of intelligence from different portions of the army, and on the 5th of November, 1776, the committee reported: whereupon congress "*Resolved*, That for obtaining early and frequent intelligence from the camps at White Plains, and Ticonderoga, or such other places as the armies now, or lately were, may march or have marched to, and forwarding dispatches to the commanding officers, with the like expedition, the postmaster-general do immediately employ so many more riders, between Philadelphia and head-quarters of these armies, as he shall judge will most effectually perform that very important, and at this time, more especially necessary service: and that he endeavor to the utmost of his power, to procure sober, diligent, and trusty persons, to undertake it: and guard in the best manner he is able against robberies of the mails, or losses of their contents otherwise."

Ferry keepers were enjoined to expedite the passage of post riders, and others charged with dispatches to congress, and the state legislators were recommended, to carry the resolution into effect.

It appears, that all services at that period were obtained and paid for under contracts; and that perquisites and emoluments were disapproved, for congress "*Resolved*, That expresses and special messengers, employed in the public service, taking and carrying private letters, and packets, ought not to receive the wages they would otherwise be entitled to."

The compensation of the postmaster-general was increased to two thousand dollars, on the 16th of April, 1779.

Monday, December 27th, 1779, congress "*Resolved*, That the post office be so regulated, as that the post shall set out, and arrive, at the place where congress shall be setting, twice in every week; to go so far as Boston, in Massachusetts Bay, and to Charleston, in the state of South Carolina."

That, as the duties of the postmaster-general and comptroller, will henceforward be considerably increased, by the above resolution, the salary of the postmaster-general be 5000 dollars per annum, and the comptroller's be 4000 dollars per annum. The officers in the general post office establishment, at periods from 1775 to 1789, or during the confederation of the states, were, a postmaster-general, secretary, comptroller, three surveyors, and an inspector of dead letters.

The postmaster-general appointed his deputy postmasters, estab-

lished post offices, hired post-riders, &c.; dispatched the mail, as congress required. Different orders and resolutions show, that congress supervised and directed the whole, and in many instances, in minute detail.

It is not probable he had the power to remove a deputy postmaster, for on the 20th of October, 1776, congress "*Resolved*, That the postmaster-general be directed to remove Bessonnet, of Bristol, in Pennsylvania, from the office of deputy postmaster, and appoint some other trusty person in that town to that office." Bessonnet and his bar-keeper, were accused with having intercepted a packet from general Washington, and the state authority, through the counsel of safety of Pennsylvania, was supplicated to arrest Bessonnet and his bar-keeper and to carry them to Philadelphia for examination, keeping them apart.

The secretary acted as clerk to the postmaster-general, and the comptroller examined and passed, or disallowed the accounts of postmasters, and others, and was book-keeper.

The surveyors traveled on the routes, collected from the postmasters when they did not remit, and attended to the post riders, and probably paid them their services.

By a resolution passed on the 17th of October, 1777, the postmaster-general was authorised to appoint two additional surveyors, and their tours were assigned to them by congress, as follows: "One from Casco Bay to Philadelphia, or during the enemy's being in possession of that city, to Lancaster. One from Philadelphia or Lancaster to Edentown, in North Carolina, and the third, from Edentown to Savannah, in Georgia."

By the same resolution an inspector of dead letters was appointed, with a salary of one hundred dollars a year, and his duties were defined, as follows, "to examine all dead letters, at the expiration of each quarter; to communicate to congress such as contain inimical schemes, or intelligence; to preserve carefully all money, loan office certificates, lottery tickets, notes of hand, and other valuable papers inclosed in any of them, and be accountable for them, and to keep a book containing an exact account of such papers, &c. so found, the date of the letters, from whence, and by whom written, and to whom directed; that he be under oath faithfully and impartially to discharge the duties of his office; that he be enjoined to take no copy of any letter whatever, and not to divulge their contents to any but congress, or those whom they may appoint for that purpose."

The general features of these regulations, as to noting, filing and keeping letters, with their contents, if valuable, have been observed and practiced, to the present time.

The duties of the office must have been trifling, when compared to what they are now. Instead of one clerk employed, at the expiration of each quarter, there are now four clerks assigned to this branch of the public service, who are employed constantly, and others incidentally, as the dead letters are sent with the waybills and quarterly returns.

The number of dead letters, which were returned to the general post office at that period, cannot be ascertained. In a report made in 1830, it is stated, that the number of dead letters returned to the general post office in 1829 was 380,000, and it was reported in 1831, that the number in 1830 was about 500,000, and the number for the last year is stated to have been about 1,250,000.

They are from every section of this country; and ship letters are from every nation, people, and tongue having any intercourse with us. They are upon all subjects, concerning which people write. They contain all kinds of articles transmitted by mail, from ringlets of hair to silk dresses.

Drugs and medicines, and large tin tubes or cases containing maps, and valuable papers, are not uncommon.

The salaries of the officers in the post office establishment, and the pay of post-riders, varied with the fluctuations of the value of the currency.

Congress paid the salary of the postmaster-general, on the 15th of September, 1780, at \$1000, and that of the secretary and comptroller at \$500 each.

On the 14th of October following, the surveyors of the post office were allowed \$533 33, and \$3 50 a day when traveling, and from these respective dates, such salaries were to be paid in specie. They were afterwards increased.

The post-riders furnished their own horses and forage, generally, for on the 12th of December, 1780, it was ordered, "That the post-riders to the eastward, during their necessary stay at Fishkill, have their horses kept in the public stables, and that a reasonable deduction be made from their pay, for the forage they shall be supplied with." They were occasionally intercepted by the enemy, and at the date last mentioned, it was ordered "That the postmaster-general order the post-riders to travel through Connecticut, at a distance from the sea shore, in such a manner as may render them secure from attempts, of the like nature with that which lately happened at Stratford in that state.

It does not appear that they were protected by a military escort, before June 20th, 1781, and on that day it was "*Resolved*, That the postmaster-general be directed immediately to employ a post-rider in

the room of him, who was lately taken by the enemy between Fish kill and Morristown, and to apply to the board of war for an escort, on that part of the way, where the riders are exposed to be interrupted by the enemy."

Before you have followed me thus far, your patience will probably be exhausted.

No branch of the public service has increased more rapidly than the post office department; and although it cannot boast of victories won by its own power, it is connected with the defences, and the best interests of the country. It was established to disseminate intelligence, and it has fully answered, in war and in peace, the object of its creation. Every individual in this extensive country is benefited by it, and interested in its prosperity.

I will give to you some further account of its rise and progress, if time, business, and health permit.

Most sincerely and respectfully yours,

Jno. S. Williams, Esqr.

E. Whittlesey

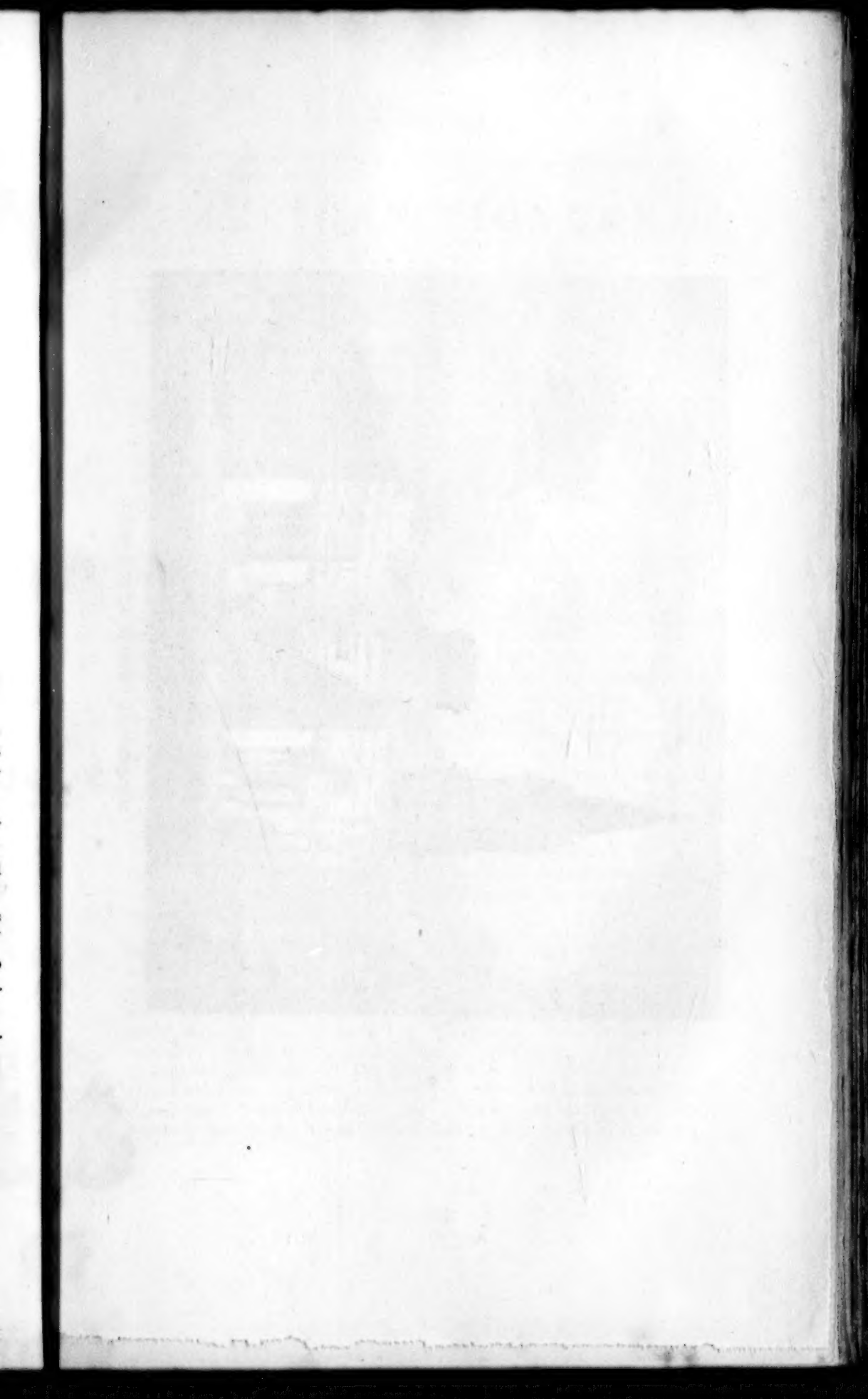
To the Hon. Elisha Whittlesey.

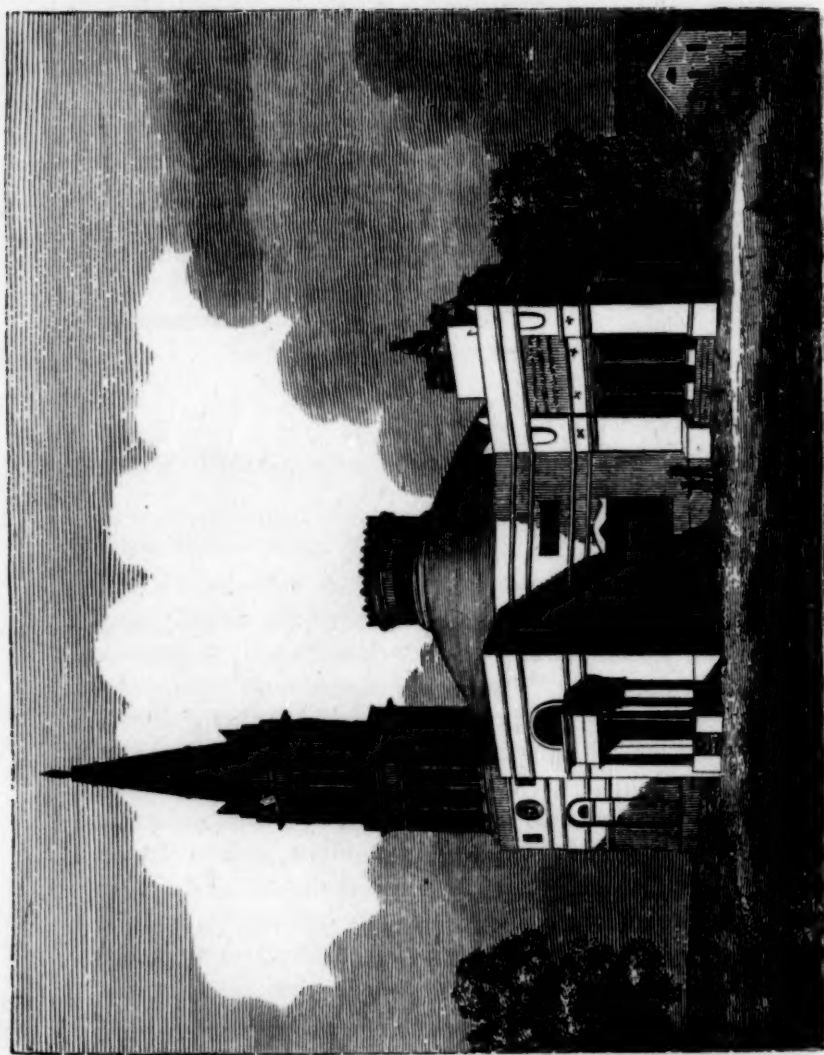
DEAR SIR:—You will gratify us more than we can conveniently express, if you will write for the American Pioneer, on all convenient occasions, and allow us the privilege of telling you in all candor, when "our patience becomes exhausted." This we promise to do most punctually, as well as of the first complaint our patrons make either of the frequency or length of your inestimable contributions. Nothing can more clearly show the rapid rise and improvement of America, than a knowledge of the growth or increase of the post office facilities, and nothing will tend more to infuse a love of our country and institutions in the minds of the citizens, than a just contemplation of the blessings received through, in and under them. Placed where you are, we are inclined to believe that, to that country, in the behalf of which your industry has been long exerted, you owe (to you no doubt) the pleasing duty of setting that and other historical and statistical subjects, in a conspicuous light before the public.

For favors past, and in anticipation of more to come, please to accept a remembrance—the kind regards of yours, truly,

Jno. S. Williams

Chillicothe, O. August 1st, 1842.





MONUMENTAL CHURCH, AT RICHMOND.